

Dear Parents of Youth:

I'm writing to provide you with the quarterly/tri-annual update on all things youth related. Most importantly I want to say welcome to the parents of new 7th graders entering the youth group this fall. Please consider this letter as somewhat of an introduction to ccym. To the rest of you, welcome to a new ministry year with ccym. So, what has been brewing lately?

On the Sunday following Flashback Flamingo Friday we used the evening to create thank you cards for all those who helped us make the evening a success. During this time we discussed a number of different aspects of the evening. After communicating the many complements that we received from so many of you to the youth, I asked them to think out loud about why the evening went so well. The responses were both interesting and telling. "Because we planned ahead...we worked hard...we were really organized...we had so many great acts..." etc. While all these things are true, no one mentioned God, or His grace. This demonstrates, at least to some degree, the constant attention that must be given to teaching our youth that it is God upon whom we are wholly dependent and our successes present us with opportunity to give Him praise and call attention to His grace and mercy. In teaching such things we teach the youth the true order of things – how it is they live in and understand God's world, a major task of parenting.

You might remember that in my last letter I stated that our Sunday Evening program remains in flux. Our summertime solution was a major project (Flashback Flamingo Friday) which engaged the youth and their various talents in service to the body. The explicit goals of this project were to 1) provide an opportunity for the youth to work hard in serving the body; 2) give the youth "real-life" experience of how they can effectively use their abilities in the church; and 3) raise funds to support a ministry in the church (final count: \$1557.50) – and all of this for God's glory. Your sons and daughters did an excellent job! If you would have had the opportunity to view them up close, behind the scenes, I all of you would have been very proud to call them your own.

Sunday School ● 9:15 – 10:15 am ● Kitchen (grades 7 – 12)

Sunday School is the most critical element of our program. This is where the regular teaching of the Word of God, meant to supplement your work at home, is occurring. Born out of questions from the youth over the past 1 ½ years, we are currently studying through a video/discussion course called "What Do They Mean When They Say, "Reformed Theology?" R.C. Sproul joins us each Sunday morning for a 20 minute lecture that is followed by 20 minutes of explanation and discussion. This series is being tied in with understanding some of the fundamental aspects of the Truths We Treasure document summarizing Clearcreek Chapel's statement of faith. We are aiming at answering the question, "What does Clearcreek Chapel believe?" If at all possible, please make every effort to have your Jr. High or Sr. High child regularly with us on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour.

Sunday Evenings ● Usually following special music ● Kitchen

Presently Sunday evenings are being used to further elaborate upon and discuss the Sunday morning content of Sunday School, as the level of material The youth team will be meeting mid-October to discuss future plans for our Sunday evenings. If any of you had the opportunity to read Clearcreek's annual ministry report, you will note that I believe we still have some way to go in developing an approach to Sunday evening that serves the youth best.

In-home Events ● As scheduled ● Home of parents orccym Idshp team

In-home events occur roughly every other month and are alternated with Activity & Service events. In-home events are always no-cost, low-key, and lightly structured. We aim to build relationships and extend influence toward and among the youth during these times. Our next In-home event is November 11th at the Bergers. Watch for more details as the date nears.

Activity & Service Events ● As scheduled

Activity events happen three to four times per year and usually have some cost associated with them, require more planning and structure, and generally require going somewhere. Last night we utilized an Activity Event slot to kick-off our new ministry year with a harvest party for the youth and their families at the Surls' farm. I'm

not sure which was more fun: watching Linda Frye (attempt to) spit a pumpkin seed as far she could or watching 5 youth with chalk in their hands trying to catch and mark 3 pigs. Service events also happen three to four times per year. These events are designed to engage the youth's strength and energies in the service of others, both inside and outside the body. Our next Service Event will be the all-church babysit in December, where parents have the opportunity to receive four hours of free babysitting in order that they might catch up in Christmas shopping, go on a date, or just return home and relax.

<http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/> >ministries ● keeping up-to-date

To stay up-to-date on specific event information and calendar changes you can view the ccym website at the web address in the gray bar. This website is our main point of distribution for information, so check it often, particularly as events near to find details. Generally flyers are distributed and announcements are put in the bulletin as well.

When you pray for us if you could keep several thoughts in mind we would appreciate it. First and foremost, pray that teaching of the Word would be effective in the youth's hearts. Secondly, our group is growing in size. In the past month we have enjoyed attendance levels between 27 and 31. This makes the kitchen somewhat cramped although not un-usable. Pray that we would be creative and effective in utilizing this space as well as possible. It is my desire that we be able to split the youth into Junior and Senior high classes about a year from now, which would alleviate size/space issues somewhat. We are blessed to have several growing into teaching positions and I anticipate that with this growth it will make two classes possible for at least part of the year. Please pray that we would continue to grow in our teaching capacity.

We greatly enjoy the privilege of serving your children. As always we welcome any feedback you would like to give to us. Pray with us for your children's continued Godward growth, whether that be for salvation or continued spiritual maturation.

Thank you,



Devon Berry on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team

